

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03988 021649Z
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 ARA-10 /035 W
-----050734 031216Z /46
R 021615Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9087

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3988

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF A PRISONER AMNESTY IN EL SALVADOR

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL FROM OUR REPORTING THAT I HAVE
TWICE BROACHED TO PRESIDENT ROMERO THE IDEA OF AN AMNESTY
FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS. ON NEITHER OCCASION WAS HE
PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING IN HIS RESPONSE.

2. TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THESE APPROACHES, WE HAVE JUST
LEARNED THAT HEADS OF ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THIS GOVERNMENT--
EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL-- HAVE RECENTLY DISCUSSED
AMONG THEMSELVES IN A VERY TENTATIVE AND PRELIMINARY WAY
THE FEASIBILITY OF A PRISONER AMNESTY.

3. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT ANY SUCH AMNESTY WOULD
SUFFER
CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS WHICH WOULD TEND TO
VITIATE ITS EFFECT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PARTIAL PROGRESS
IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL AND COULD CREATE A USEFUL
PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER POSITIVE MOVEMENT IN THE FUTURE.

4. WE HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AN INITIAL OPPORTUNITY
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TO ENCOURAGE MOVMENT IN THIS DIRECTION AND SHALL BE
ALERT FOR MORE OF SAME. MEANWHILE, WE CAUTION AGAINST
ANY PUBLICITY OF THIS INCIPIENT DEVELOPMENT LEST IT BE
COMPLETELY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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